

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 23, 2001

LB 657

times the river came out several times in one year, so they straightened it. But the government didn't pay for it, cigarette tax didn't pay for it. Nobody else came and paid for it. The taxpayers who owned property...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...that was on the side of that were the ones that ended up paying for it. And maybe that's what we should go back to, but probably we won't. Did you say time? I think that....I guess what I'm...what I'm trying to say, and I'm not asking to go back to the way things were. But I do think that the people who get the greatest benefit are the ones that ought to provide at least the greatest amount of funding for these kind of projects, because they are the ones that feel that they're important, as they did when I talked about the straightening of the river. And I got to tell you, in all honesty, the drainage tax that my grandfather paid was far in excess of what land tax was in that time. And it was a burden for him, but...but it was important, and so they absorbed the cost. That's the way things were. They'll never be that way again, and we're all glad for that. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, members of the body, I just want to stand up and talk a little bit about this, because I think that Senator Janssen has got a good idea here that would get it clear across the state and to help a lot of communities across the state. And, I guess, the way his does is put \$250,000 each year into the Local Civic Culture and Convention Center Financing Fund, which would...any community could use it that way across the state. The reason I feel that way is because cigarette tax comes from clear across the state, not just down here. It...there's a lot of cigarette tax comes from the western part of the state. I realize that it's clear across the state, but...and there's probably more collected down here, but this would spread it across. I had an amendment earlier on this bill that would put some of it out for...for the water quality, so the NRDs could have it for water quality, and I think that's something that involves the whole state and also it's a benefit